IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1.   (Currently amended)   A method for determining distortions in an image comprising the steps of:

arranging a living subject in an imaging volume of ~~an~~ a medical imaging system and obtaining ~~an~~ a medical image of said subject in said imaging volume, with a first region of said imaging volume appearing undistorted in said medical image and a second region of said imaging volume appearing distorted in said medical image;

prior to obtaining said medical image of said subject, obtaining a single image, using said medical imaging system, of at least three simultaneously-present markings having a known spatial position relative to each other, with a first and a second of said three markings being disposed in said first region and a third of said three markings being disposed in said second region;

determining respective positions of said markings in said single image of said markings;

determining an ideal position of said third marking in said single image of said markings from the known spatial position of said third marking relative to said first and second markings; and

determining a positional difference of the image of the third marking in said single image of said markings from said ideal position, and employing said positional difference as a criterion for distortion in said medical image.

Claim 2 has been amended as follows:

2. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising generating an imaging scale from the distance of the first marking in said ~~single~~ image of said ~~marking~~ markings from the distance of said second marking in said single image of said markings.

3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising arranging said three markings in a straight row behind one another.

Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

4. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising determining said ideal positioning of said third marking by a straight line that proceeds through the image of said first marking and the image of said second marking in said single image of said markings, and by a known distance of said third marking from said first marking and said second marking.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising arranging said three markings in a single plane.

6. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 5 comprising disposing the three markings at respective corners of a right triangle.

7. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 6 comprising determining said positional difference by triangulation.

Claim 8 has been amended as follows:

8. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said image of said markings has a middle region, and obtaining said single image of said markings so that said first region is disposed in said middle region of said image of said markings.

Claim 9 has been amended as follows:

9.   (Currently amended)   A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said three markings are arranged in a single plane and wherein said _single_ image of said markings has a center, and comprising identifying the respective markings in said _single_ image of said markings from respective distances of the markings in said _single_ image of said markings from said center.

Claim 10 has been amended as follows:

10.   (Currently amended)   A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising generating said _single_ image of said subject and said _single_ image of said markings by nuclear magnetic resonance imaging.

Claims 11-16 have been cancelled.

11.-16.   (Cancelled).